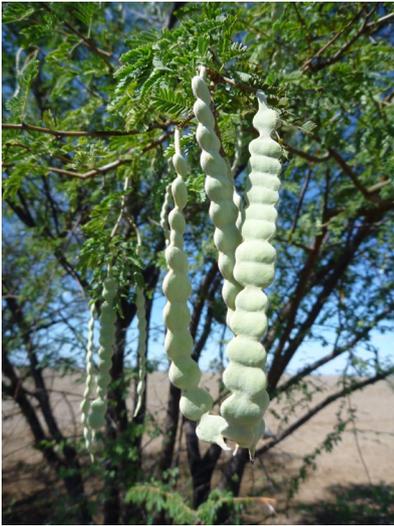


Weed Management Plan for Prickly Acacia (*Vachellia nilotica*) 2012 – 2022

2020 Revision



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Rangelands Division

Weed Management Branch
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
PO Box 496
Palmerston NT 0831

08 8999 4567

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This plan can be downloaded from nt.gov.au/pricklyacacia.

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Glossary	
Active management	The control and monitoring of a weed infestation in order to meet strategic goals.
Active treatment phase	The first stage of an eradication response, involving active control and survey for the target weed. When no plants are detected for at least 12 months, the response moves into the monitoring phase.
Core infestation	An established population of weed from which satellite infestations (outliers) may arise.
Eradicated	A weed infestation can be considered eradicated when there is sufficient evidence that there are no remaining propagules (e.g. seed). See also 'proof of freedom'.
Eradication	The elimination of every single individual (including seeds and other propagules) of a species from a defined area in which recolonisation is unlikely to occur (Panetta 2016).
Eradication response	A weed control program that aims to eradicate a weed from a defined area. There are two operational phases: (1) active treatment phase; (2) monitoring phase.
Containment	The aim of preventing or reducing the spread of invasive species, e.g. by preventing invasions into new areas and eradicating any species that are found outside a defined area or beyond a defined line (Panetta 2016).
Control	To implement actions that reduce the effects of a weed where it occurs. For weeds, a wide range of treatment methods are used for control, generally falling into the categories of mechanical, chemical and biological control (Panetta 2016). Fire is also a useful management tool that can be used to reduce the impact of weeds.
Human-assisted spread	Spread of weeds into new areas with the assistance of humans and human activities. Includes transport by a person, vehicle, livestock, hay or contaminated produce.
Mature plant	A plant that has evidence of flowering or seeding, or is of sufficient size to be judged capable of flowering or seeding.
Monitoring phase	The second phase of any successful eradication response. Commences when no recruits or regrowth have been detected in the area subjected to active treatment, for at least 12 months (Panetta 2007). The monitoring phase continues for the life of the seed bank.
Outbreak	A recently detected pest population.
Outlier	Isolated plants at significant distance from a larger core infestation.
Pest	An organism that has a significant negative impact on the economy, environment or other human values.
Proof of freedom	In order to achieve proof of freedom, regular surveillance must establish that no regrowth has occurred for a defined period after: (1) the last detection of the weed; and/or (2) the last reproductive event.
Regrowth	The growth of new plant material following disturbance or control including the regeneration of established plants and the germination of new seedlings.
Surveillance	A standardised process to collect and record data on weed presence or absence by survey, monitoring or other procedures.
Weed	Pest plant.

1. Executive Summary

The aim of this plan is to guide the strategic control of prickly acacia in the Northern Territory with the long term aim of eradication. This aim is based on prickly acacia being a Class A weed (to be eradicated) under the *Weeds Management Act 2001* (the Act) administered by authorised weed management officers in the Weed Management Branch, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Objectives of this plan focus around achieving the aim of eradicating prickly acacia from the Northern Territory.

The Weed Management Plan for Prickly Acacia (*Acacia nilotica*) 2012 – 2022 is a statutory plan under the Act. Weed management plans are legal documents designated under section 10 of the Act for high risk declared weeds in the Northern Territory. These plans establish the legal requirements and management actions to be undertaken by all owners and occupiers of land on which the declared weed is present in the Northern Territory.

Section 9(2) of the Act compels all owners and occupiers of land to comply with a weed management plan. Non-compliance is an environmental offence level 3 under the *Environmental Offences and Penalties Act 1996*. Non-compliance may include failure to undertake any of the required actions specified in this plan.

To achieve compliance with this plan under the Act, land owners and occupiers with prickly acacia on their land must comply with the requirements outlined in Table 1 of this plan.

The first statutory plan for prickly acacia was gazetted on 7 March 2012. The 2012 plan was reviewed and amended in 2015 and the amended plan was gazetted on 23 December 2015. The 2015 plan has been reviewed and is being amended to form the 2020 plan. The 2020 plan will commence on the date it is gazetted, that is 27 May 2020 and will remain in force until 7 March 2022, 10 years from the commencement of the first prickly acacia plan.

2. Overview

2.1. Aim

The aim of this plan is to guide the strategic and legislated control of prickly acacia in the Northern Territory with the long term aim of eradication.

2.2. Objectives

1. All mature prickly acacia plants are destroyed by December 2021.
2. All regrowth of prickly acacia after December 2021 to be destroyed prior to the production of viable seeds.
3. All current distribution maps of prickly acacia are validated by field survey and data on the control of mature prickly acacia populations, to verify compliance with this plan.
4. The spread of prickly acacia from existing infestations is prevented.
5. Compliance and enforcement plans for prickly acacia are aligned with relevant regional weed strategies and priorities.

2.3. Required actions by all persons with prickly acacia on their land

The actions detailed in Table 1 have been identified as the minimum acceptable requirements needed to achieve compliance with this plan by all persons and organisations with prickly acacia on land they own, manage or occupy¹. All required actions with timeframes based upon commencement of the plan are to be implemented from the gazettal date found on page 5.

Table 1 – Required prickly acacia management actions

All land owners and occupiers with prickly acacia on their land must:	
1.1	Destroy all mature prickly acacia plants by December 2021.
1.2	All prickly acacia regrowth after December 2021 to be under active management so that no mature plants are recruited to the population.
1.3	Document a two year property weed management plan according to the requirements in Section 4.2 by December 2020.
1.4	Provide an annual status report to the Weed Management Branch that documents progress made against actions outlined in the property weed management plan. The first annual status report must be provided by December 2021 and each December thereafter.
1.5	Notify the Weed Management Branch of the presence of prickly acacia within 14 days when identified in areas where it has not been observed previously ² .

¹ All land includes privately owned land, vacant Crown land and other publically owned land parcels (such as parks and reserves, future development land, Land Corporation land, Defence and Commonwealth owned and leased land), Aboriginal land and all unzoned land, privately owned or leased (e.g. pastoral or Land Use Agreement parcels) or land under development. Refer to Appendix A for a full list of roles and responsibilities that apply to land owners and occupiers and land managers including the Northern Territory Government, local government and the Australian Government.

² For all required submissions and Department contact information, refer Appendix C.

2.4. Basis for aim and objectives in this plan

The original Weed Management Plan for Prickly Acacia commenced in 2012. The 2012 plan included management requirements, targets and completion timeframes with 10 year goals. This plan was reviewed in 2015 and amended to include almost identical management requirements, targets and completion timeframes to the previous plan.

Key targets of the original 2012 plan required by year 5 to 10:

- all prickly acacia infestations in the Northern Territory are under active eradication programs
- the number and size of infestations of prickly acacia in the Northern Territory is reduced

The 2015 plan required that by years 4 to 6:

- mature seeding trees have been eradicated and the production of seed and spread of prickly acacia is prevented

The 2015 plan required that by years 1 to 10:

- all prickly acacia infestations in the Northern Territory are under active eradication programs and number and size of prickly acacia in the Northern Territory is reduced

This review reflects the good progress made towards the management and control of prickly acacia and the importance of setting definite management timeframes in this revision.

Progress against the 2012 and 2015 plans have been used to determine the current aim, objectives and required actions by all persons with prickly acacia on their land (Table 1).

The aim of these requirements is to enable the strategic control of prickly acacia in the Northern Territory with the long term aim of eradication.

2.5. Declaration of prickly acacia under the Act

Prickly acacia is a declared weed throughout the Northern Territory under section 7 of the Act. It is a Class A weed (to be eradicated) in all areas of the Territory.

This means land owners and occupiers are required to eradicate prickly acacia on their land and prickly acacia is not to be introduced into or moved within the Territory.

Declared weeds affect the entire Northern Territory community. Management of weeds is an essential precursor to achieving outcomes related to improving the Northern Territory's productivity, competitiveness, sustainability and natural environment.

2.6. Impacts of prickly acacia

Prickly acacia (*Vachellia nilotica*) is a Weed of National Significance. It was declared a Weed of National Significance by the Australian Government in 1999 because of its ability to spread and infest valuable grazing lands. It has been assessed as a very high risk weed in the Northern Territory through the Weed Risk Management System due to its invasiveness, potential for spread and economic and environmental impacts (Northern Territory Government 2011).

Prickly acacia was introduced to Australia prior to 1900. By the 1960's prickly acacia was being promoted as a shade and fodder tree. Prickly acacia has since demonstrated capacity to prosper along watercourses, rapidly out-competing native plants for available water. The agricultural production and environmental values across more than 6.6 million hectares of Australia is already negatively affected by prickly acacia.

It is distributed from the New South Wales border, through Queensland and across the Northern Territory to Western Australia's Kimberley region. Modelling indicates that up to 70% of Australia's mainland is at risk of prickly acacia invasion, including 50 million hectares of Australia's Mitchell Grasslands (predominantly in Queensland). Vast areas of central and northern Australia are susceptible to prickly acacia invasion, including ecologically and economically important areas of the Northern Territory.

Once established along water courses and bore drains, prickly acacia can spread out onto adjacent grasslands. Thickets exclude native plants and animals, impacting ecological integrity and biodiversity. From an economic perspective, the thickets impede mustering, restrict movement of stock and cattle access to water and reduce pasture production.

Prickly acacia produces abundant seeds that can remain viable for 7 years. Cattle are the major contributors to seed spread, as they preferentially graze the high protein seed pods, then excrete the viable seeds. Seeds can also be transported when stuck in mud on animal's hooves or on vehicles. Any flowing water will also facilitate seed distribution.

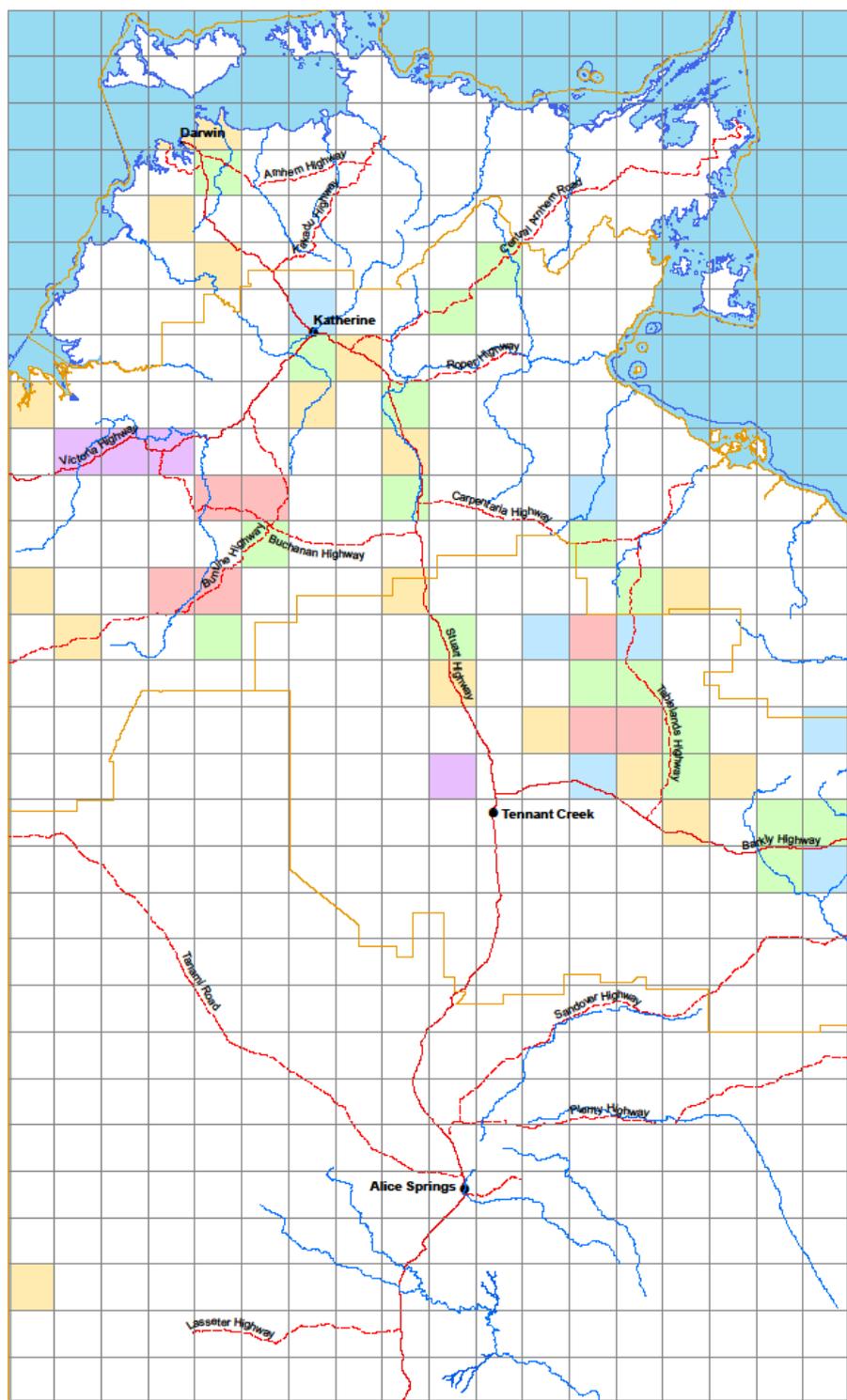
Prickly acacia is among the suite of plants known as 'prickle bushes'. The others are mesquite (*Prosopis* spp), parkinsonia (*Parkinsonia aculeata*) and mimosa (*Mimosa pigra*). They can all be confused with each other. Likewise, they may be confused with other native trees and shrubs and the naturalized shrub, mimosa bush. Land managers should correctly identify any potential weed before considering control measures.

2.7. Current distribution across the Northern Territory

In the Northern Territory prickly acacia generally occurs as scattered, isolated infestations. These infestations occur on a number of pastoral properties on the Barkly Tablelands and isolated incursions are also present in the Katherine region, especially in the Victoria River District (VRD). The only known remaining dense infestations of prickly acacia are in the southern region of the VRD and infestations on 3 properties in the Barkly Tablelands (refer Figure 1). Outbreaks have occurred in Adelaide River and Batchelor, however these have been successfully eradicated. Other areas reported to have prickly acacia include the Camfield River and the Weemol Springs, a sacred site in Arnhem Land.

Prickly acacia

- Legend**
- Region outline
 - 50km Grid
- Weed Distribution Description**
- Absent
 - Eradicated and Monitored
 - Present - Density Unknown
 - Unknown Occurrence
 - Occasional and Localised
 - Occasional and Widespread
 - Common and Localised
 - Common and Widespread
 - Abundant and Localised
 - Abundant and Widespread



N

0 50 100 KM

NORTHERN TERRITORY
GOVERNMENT

Figure 1: Known distribution of prickly acacia in the Northern Territory (source: Weed Management Branch 2020)

2.8. Achieving the plan's objectives

Achieving the plan's objectives will require strategic and coordinated action and investment from land owners, occupiers and managers with prickly acacia, the three tiers of government, Landcare or natural resource groups and other relevant stakeholders.

Education and awareness

An important and effective tool in achieving results for any weed management program is education and awareness. Awareness of the damage a weed can impose on the environment, people and the economy is helpful for land owners and occupiers to better understand the effects of non-management.

Successful delivery and implementation of extension activities and programs will assist land owners and occupiers to understand their obligations and execute management actions to manage prickly acacia in the Northern Territory.

Education and awareness in prickly acacia management includes delivery of extension materials and activities focused on:

- strategic planning
- data collection
- best practice control methods
- spread prevention and hygiene protocols
- risk management

Stakeholder investment and long-term commitment to weed management as well as implementation of a targeted education and awareness program based on the elements above, will greatly assist with achieving the objectives of this plan.

Strategic approaches

The Northern Territory Government expects owners and occupiers of land with prickly acacia present to take action to eradicate all prickly acacia on their land.

Strategic approaches to weed management planning ensure more efficient use of resources to achieve the best on-ground outcomes. Regional weed management plans can significantly improve stakeholder awareness and ownership in weed management and provide for long-term goal-setting and agreed regional actions rather than one-off, reactive control.

Strategic regional partnerships can also overlap jurisdictional boundaries; a case in point being the Northern Territory's membership of the Prickly Acacia Alliance, driven by Queensland's Desert Channels regional natural resource management body.

Through strategic weed management planning on a regional or cross-jurisdictional basis, areas can be prioritised for control to reduce spread and infestation of other clean areas, or to protect assets whether they be cultural, economic, production or environment-focused. Land owners and occupiers can also agree where effort needs to be focused to maximise the impact of resources applied.

Advice regarding this type of planning is available to land owners and occupiers, from the Weed Management Branch.

Regional scale planning is explored further in Section 4, together with an outline of how property weed management plans should be developed.

Compliance and enforcement

Implementation of a compliance and enforcement framework includes providing management advice and issuing work orders and Penalty Infringement Notices under the Act, to achieve the objectives of the plan.

Implementation of the management requirements in Section 2 Table 1 of this plan will safeguard compliance with this plan.

3. Management

Best practice management methods should be utilised by land owners and occupiers to minimise the impacts of prickly acacia. These methods are to be used to achieve compliance with this plan.

3.1. Data collection and survey

Surveying for weeds and collecting and analysing weed data can greatly improve success in weed management, particularly on large blocks or at a landscape or catchment scale. Knowing the location and the extent of prickly acacia on properties or in the surrounding area will inform prioritisation of control work and most efficient use of resources. Pathways of spread, including road and infrastructure corridors and rivers and creek lines, are particularly important to survey.

Refer to the Northern Territory Government's Weed Data Collection Manual and Field Guide documents for further information on [data collection](#), or contact the Weed Management Branch for advice.

3.2. Integrated weed control

Effective prickly acacia management is dependent on the application of an integrated natural resource management approach. Weed control will be more successful where land managers are also implementing appropriate grazing regimes, managing feral animals and controlling erosion and fire on their properties. Biological control may also play a part in the management of prickly acacia.

It is recognised that successful weed management outcomes may take time and repeated effort to become clear. Effective control, particularly in rangeland situations, will require the development of a long term management plan, which takes into account any existing seed bank which may have accumulated in the soil. The results of a strict management program will become more evident with time.

For more information regarding best practice control of prickly acacia refer to:

- the [NT Weed Management Handbook \(2018\)](#)
- the [NT Prickly Acacia Fact Sheet](#)
- the [QLD Weed Management Guide Prickly acacia](#)
- view control options for prickly acacia at nt.gov.au/prickly-acacia
- contact the NT Weed Management Branch at weedinfo@nt.gov.au or on (08) 8999 4567

4. Planning

It is well recognised that successful planning, prevention of weed spread and management of weeds requires effective partnerships, clear management goals, best practice management techniques, and methods to monitor progress and targeted research. Planning is one of the most useful tools in managing weeds and achieving the best outcomes for effort.

4.1. Regional weed plans and priority areas for weed management

In the Northern Territory, there are regional weed plans for the Darwin, Katherine, the Barkly and Alice Springs regions (to be renamed as strategies in coming versions).

Regional weed plans identify priority weeds in a region for strategic control. The plans are developed in consultation with key stakeholders, including regional weed reference groups, and are informed by outputs from the Northern Territory Weed Risk Management System.

Regional priorities are guided within these plans by:

1. priority weeds
2. priority landscape areas
3. priority pathways of spread

Prickly acacia is listed in the current Katherine and Barkly Regional Weed Plans as a priority weed for management. Prickly acacia is also identified for strategic control in the Alice Springs region in accordance with the current Alice Springs Regional Weed Plan.

To view the priority landscape areas and criteria used to determine priority landscape areas, refer to each of the [regional plans](#) for the Northern Territory.

Priority pathways of weed spread have also been identified in the regional weed management plans above. Specific to prickly acacia, the main pathways of seed spread are:

- cattle that consume and excrete seeds that remain viable after passing through the digestive tract
- water flow
- accidental transport by feral animals, vehicles and cattle
- movement of soil typically by vehicles and machinery where there is soil seedbank.

Regional priorities may change over the life of this plan as the regional plans are reviewed and updated.

4.2. Property weed management plans

It is a requirement that all landholders who have prickly acacia on their land develop a property weed management plan, which includes a detailed assessment of prickly acacia on the property. This assessment will enable consideration of the current distribution of prickly acacia, potential for spread (along water courses, access tracks/roads, animal movement) and potential impacts on land use and other values such as biodiversity and agricultural production.

Successful weed management may require significant investment over an extended period of time. In particular, the control of large, established infestations will require careful planning, prioritisation and budgeting.

A property weed management plan must detail exactly what needs to occur in order to meet or exceed all requirements of this Prickly Acacia Weed Management Plan 2012 – 2022, and must include:

1. A map of the property including:

- prickly acacia plants and dense infestations
- areas previously treated and requiring follow up surveillance and control
- clean areas to be kept free of prickly acacia
- areas where there is an increased risk of spread or input; examples include tracks, fence lines, suitable habitats and infrastructure.

2. A work program that includes:

- a plan for achieving the requirements of this plan to destroy all mature prickly acacia plants by December 2021
- a description of control methods to be used including timing of control applications
- a schedule for undertaking follow up monitoring and follow up control and how this will be recorded and documented
- hygiene and weed spread prevention measures to be implemented to prevent prickly acacia spread.

Depending on circumstances, an effective property weed management plan may also identify actions to assist early detection of new weed incursions.

Prioritising control work will help get the most from resources. Prioritise control of:

- outlier prickly acacia plants and infestations
- prickly acacia plants likely to contaminate vehicles and equipment (with seed) such as slashers, graders and field vehicles (quads, ATVs)
- prickly acacia infestations likely to spread into neighbouring properties or clean areas from upstream infestations.

Follow up monitoring helps determine if control methods are working, or if adjustments are required. It is essential to monitor control work, as management of prickly acacia requires ongoing commitment.

Based on prickly acacia seeds being known to remain viable for 7 years (Mackey 1997), follow-up monitoring is required for at least 7 years after the destruction of all mature plants. During this period, all prickly acacia regrowth must be destroyed prior to maturity.

Best practice for monitoring control efforts is as follows:

- document control methods and success of control
- analyse success or failure of control works
- review and amend control as required to reach optimal results
- inspect and retreat controlled areas to prevent seeding
- regularly check areas that are disturbed, prickly acacia free or are downstream of current infestations to ensure no new outbreaks are occurring
- establish photo points to help compare growth and management success from year to year.

Refer to the following documents for further assistance with the preparation of a property weed management plan including weed spread prevention measures:

- the Northern Territory Government's [Planning for Better Weed Management](#) document
- the Northern Territory Government [Preventing Weed Spread is Everybody's Business](#) document

5. Monitoring and evaluation

Full compliance with a statutory weed management plan can require a great deal of effort, commitment and investment from land managers, particularly from those who are already affected by declared weeds. For this reason it is essential that the Northern Territory Government monitors whether the stipulated management actions are contributing towards the identified outcomes at a Territory level.

The Weed Management Branch will monitor the results of this plan to determine whether it is achieving its objectives, remains relevant, responds to changing conditions and is supported by the community.

Continuous improvement can only be achieved if the following can be determined:

- investments in weed management are resulting in progress towards the plan's identified goals and objectives
- the recommended management actions are achieving the most effective and efficient control outcomes
- adaptive management involves using the feedback from monitoring and evaluation to inform and revise plans and policy.

This plan has been drafted using the best information available at the time of writing. However, should new information become available which should be included in, or influence the structure and content of this plan, it may be incorporated as a revision.

5.1. Performance indicators

A performance indicator is used to track and measure performance. The following indicators provide a means to measure the performance of this plan against its objectives.

Table 5: Performance indicators

Performance indicator	What will be measured?	Options for how indicators may be measured
Increased awareness	Knowledge of issues and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of properties with prickly acacia where the owners and/occupiers demonstrate an understanding of the requirements of the Prickly Acacia Weed Management Plan 2012 - 2022. • Proportion of properties with prickly acacia where the owners and/or occupiers are compliant with the requirements of the Prickly Acacia Weed Management Plan 2012 - 2022.
	Compliance	
Better information	Distribution data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of properties with prickly acacia where owners and/or occupiers have provided current data (less than 12 months old) on prickly acacia on their land with regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ control ○ surveillance ○ distribution • Proportion of properties with prickly acacia where owners and/or occupiers have a current property management plan in place for the weed.
	Density data	
	Use of property management plans	
Better management	Eradication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of the status of prickly acacia on properties as to whether: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ all mature plants have been destroyed ○ they are under active management ○ they are not under active management ○ unknown status • Evaluation of the status of prickly acacia on properties as to whether the weed is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ increasing ○ decreasing ○ stable ○ unknown
	Containment	
	Spread reduction	

6. References

1. Adair R, James R and Blood K (2018). Managing weeds: eradication response guide (2nd Edition). A guide for planning and undertaking an eradication response to weeds at the early stage of invasion on public land in Victoria. Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Victoria. ISBN 978-1-76077-049-5 (Print); ISBN 978-1-76077-050-1 (pdf/online).
2. Mackey AP (1997). The biology of Australian weeds 29. *Acacia nilotica* ssp. *indica* (Benth.) Brenan. *Plant Protection Quarterly* 12, 7-17.
3. Northern Territory Government (2011). Weed Risk Assessment: Prickly acacia (*Vachellia nilotica*), Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport, Darwin.
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6. Panetta, FD (2007). Evaluation of weed eradication programs: containment and extirpation. *Diversity and Distributions* 13: 33-41.
7. Panetta, FD (2016). Environmental weed risk screen for Victoria: background and development. A report prepared for the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Vic. ISBN 978-1-76047-017-3 (Print); ISBN 978-1-76047-018-0 (pdf/online).

Appendix A – Legal obligations and penalties for non-compliance

Roles and responsibilities

Everyone has a role to play in the management of declared weeds.

Australian Government: The Australian Government's role in managing weeds is mainly in relation to national pre-border and border biosecurity; with a coordination and leadership role for achieving national biosecurity outcomes, identifying key threatening processes and developing national level policies and strategies such as the Australian Weeds Strategy. It also manages Commonwealth lands, including Defence land e.g. Tindal Air Base, Bradshaw, Mount Bundy and Kakadu National Park. It further funds regional NRM bodies to support strategic projects.

Northern Territory Government: The Weed Management Branch is responsible for mitigating the impact of weeds in the Northern Territory. It does this by enabling land managers to control weeds on their land by providing advice on best practice weed control methods and coordinating strategic management of weeds across the Northern Territory. The Weed Management Branch also administers the Northern Territory's primary legislation for declared weeds, the *Weeds Management Act* (the Act), setting Territory-wide strategic policy for declared weeds and enforcing the provisions of the Act.

The Northern Territory Government also has responsibilities for the management of declared weeds as a land manager under the Act. For example, the Northern Territory Government Department of Tourism, Sport and Culture manages parks and reserves and sporting grounds, the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics manages Crown land and road reserves, the Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development manages some residential properties, the Department of Primary Industries and Resources manages land holdings used as research facilities and Power and Water manage easements.

Land Owners and Land Occupiers: All land owners and land occupiers (public and private) are responsible for managing declared weeds on their land under the Act and relevant statutory weed management plans, including this plan, the Weed Management Plan for Prickly Acacia (*Vachellia nilotica*) 2012 - 2022.

Local Government: Local governments have responsibilities to manage declared weeds on land they manage.

Legislation

Section 9 of the Act stipulates the General Duties of all owners and occupiers of land with regard to the management of weeds.

Under section 9(1) of the Act, all land owners and occupiers, (including the Crown, public authorities and licensees of Crown lands), must, in relation to their land, take all reasonable measures to:

- (a) prevent the land being infested with a declared weed;
- (b) prevent a declared weed or potential weed on the land spreading to other land; and
- (c) within 14 days after first becoming aware of a declared weed that has not previously been, or known to have been, present on the land, notify a weed management officer of the presence of the declared weed.

In accordance with Section 9(2), the owner and occupier of land on which a declared weed or potential weed is present must comply with a weed management plan relating to the weed.

Section 9(3) stipulates that the owner and occupier of land on which a potential weed is present must dispose of the weed only on the land or at a designated weed disposal area.

Section 9(4) states that a person must not do any of the following, unless in accordance with a permit:

- bring a declared weed or take part in, or be responsible for, bringing a declared weed into the Northern Territory.
- propagate or scatter a declared weed
- sell or offer to sell a declared weed or any thing that contains or carries a declared weed
- hire any equipment, device or thing that contains or carries a declared weed or potential weed
- purchase or offer to purchase a declared weed or any thing that contains or carries a declared weed
- store, grow or use a declared weed or any thing that contains or carries a declared weed
- transport or carry on his or her person a declared weed or anything that contains or carries a declared weed.

In relation to cutting declared weeds in certain areas, section 31 of the Act states:

Except to manage a declared weed in accordance with a weed management plan, a person must not cut or mow an area for the purpose of producing fodder or mulch if the person knows or should reasonably know that the area is infested or contaminated with a declared weed.

In relation to moving animals and vehicles on roads section 32 stipulates:

A person must not move or drive an animal or vehicle that the person knows or should reasonably know contains or carries a declared weed on a public road or from the person's land to another person's land unless the animal or vehicle has been cleaned in accordance with a declared weed management plan or in compliance with the direction of an officer.

In the case of non-compliance with section 9, 31 and 32 of the Act, a weed management officer can serve an order on a land owner or occupier outlining reasonable measures that must be taken for the control or eradication of a declared weed species on their land within a specified timeframe. Not complying with the conditions of an order is an offence and may involve financial penalty.

Penalties for offences under the Act

The Northern Territory Government has the capacity to prosecute for non-compliance with the Act or this weed management plan. A land owner or occupier must also comply with a weed management officer's order in relation to any of these requirements.

Land owners and occupiers should be aware that non-compliance with section 9 of the Act can incur a range of penalties from 77 to 770 penalty units³ for an individual and up to 385 to 3850 penalty units for a body corporate.

Non-compliance with an order can incur a penalty of 100 penalty units. At 1 July 2019, a penalty unit was \$157.

³ Click on the link for current [penalty unit value](#).

Permits

Under section 30 of the Act, a person may apply to the Minister for a permit to use a declared weed. The Minister may refuse or grant a permit subject to a range of conditions. Permits will generally only be granted where landholders have demonstrated a commitment to continual improvement in weed management or research, and are not intended to allow ongoing use or spread of declared weeds. Permit applications can take up to 6 weeks to process, depending on the proposed activity.

Appendix B – Support and information for land managers

The Northern Territory Government can provide training, advice and extension materials to support improved prickly acacia management. The following documents are available by contacting the Weed Management Branch on 8999 4567 or accessing the internet site www.nt.gov.au/weeds.

Document Title	Useful information in document
Prickly acacia fact sheet	Provides information on prickly acacia identification, impacts, habitat, distribution and management.
Weed Management Guide: Prickly acacia (<i>Acacia nilotica</i>)	Control options and management case studies from across Australia (Produced by CRC Weed Management).
National Case Studies Manual for Prickly Acacia	This manual shows how landholders, community and industry groups, local governments and agencies have applied management tools and strategies in different situations, and shows the approaches being taken by land managers to contain, eradicate or prevent the spread of prickly acacia. (Produced by Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, Queensland 2004).
Northern Territory Weed Management Handbook	Provides information on strategic and planned approaches to weed management, including integrated weed control methods. Specific information is provided on herbicides registered for use in the Northern Territory. The 'weed control option tables' include a colour photo of the weed in question, list herbicides registered for use, indicate optimum treatment times and which method/s can be employed for maximum effectiveness.
Preventing Weed Spread is Everybody's Business	Contains information on what different industries can do to prevent spread of weeds during day to day working conditions and actions.
Weed Data Collection Manual	Describes how to, and what information to collect when undertaking weed mapping and surveys.
Weed Data Collection – A field guide for collecting weed data in the Northern Territory	This is a step-by-step guide to collecting weed mapping data using a GPS, how to submit data and how to use this data for weed management on your property.
Weed ID Deck	Weed identification flip-book. Contains photos and written descriptions to assist with identification. Great for the glovebox.
Planning for Better Weed Management	This is a guide to help plan weed management on individual properties and identify areas of priority management.

Appendix C – Submissions and consultation contacts

NT Weed Management Branch

Phone: 8999 4567

Email: weedinfo@nt.gov.au

Address: PO Box 496 Palmerston NT 0831

Web: nt.gov.au/weeds